



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
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Boston, MA 02111
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Eligibility Operations Memo 07-15
September 15, 2007

TO: MassHealth Eligibility Operations Staff

FROM: Russ Kulp, Director, MassHealth Operations

RE: **Eligibility for Independent Foster Care Adolescents**

Introduction

The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (also known as the Chafee Act) was signed into federal law on December 14, 1999. A new state law requires MassHealth to provide Standard coverage for adolescents who are in the care and custody of the Department of Social Services (DSS) on their 18th birthday. These individuals are known as independent foster care adolescents. These adolescents will be able to receive MassHealth Standard until their 21st birthdays.

Categories of Assistance

There are two new categories of assistance:

- VV – Standard
- VW – state-funded Standard

Managed Care

Independent foster care adolescents will be enrolled in the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (the Partnership) and will have the option to enroll with a managed-care program, either a managed-care organization (MCO) or the Primary Care Clinician (PCC) Plan. Otherwise, they will have fee-for-service coverage for their medical care.

Individuals who have chosen either an MCO or the PCC Plan during their eligibility with DSS will have the option to continue with that choice.

Process

DSS will send a data set to the Central Eligibility Unit at the Revere MassHealth Enrollment Center (MEC). This unit will add the information to MA21.

Questions

If you have any questions about this memo, please have your MEC designee contact the Policy Hotline.
